

DHS Component Actions
Hurricane IRMA – Atlantic Ocean
0600 ET, 8 Sep 2017

Updates in Bold and Blue

Overview

As of 0500 ET, 8 Sep, the eye of Hurricane IRMA was progressing through the southern Bahamas, moving west-northwest at 16 mph. Storm Surge Warnings and Hurricane Warnings were issued for south Florida. IRMA is forecast to remain a powerful Category 4 hurricane for the next couple days. Major impacts are expected in south Florida Saturday night and Sunday. There is still uncertainty regarding the track Irma will take this weekend. Impacts are becoming increasingly likely up the east coast of Florida into coastal Georgia and South Carolina Monday.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- *FEMA Headquarters:*
 - NRCC Level I (for Harvey & IRMA)
 - **FEMA Corps: Teams deployed to PR and Atlanta Distribution Center**
- *FEMA Region I:*
 - Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC): Level III (day shift only)
 - Region I Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT): Augmenting RRCC, preparing to deploy depending on IRMA's track.
- *FEMA Region II:*
 - **RRCC: Level I (dayshift) with full ESF support during; Level II (night shift)**
 - FEMA Region II IMAT locations:
 - IMAT-A: St. Croix, USVI
 - IMAT-B: 1/3 force in St. Thomas, USVI; 2/3 force in PR ready to deploy to USVI as needed
 - IMAT-C: PR
 - Region X IMAT: PR
 - Staff from the FEMA Caribbean Area Division in PR to provide support to Commonwealth and local officials
 - US Virgin Islands (USVI):
 - **On Sep 7 the President approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands as a result of Hurricane Irma, beginning Sep 6, and continuing. The declaration provides: Individual Assistance for the islands of St. John and St. Thomas, Public Assistance for all islands in the Territory (Categories A & B), including direct federal assistance, and Hazard Mitigation for all islands in the territory.**
- *FEMA Region III:*
 - RRCC: Level III
 - IMAT deployed to VA EOC

- *FEMA Region IV:*
 - RRCC: Level I; full activation
 - Region IV IMAT 1 and N-IMAT East two arrived at the FL EOC on 6 Sep; Region IV IMAT-2 enroute to SC EOC
 - Region IV Liaison Officers (LNO) on site at FL, GA, SC, and NC EOCs
 - Regional Risk Analyst/Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) is active at National Hurricane Center
 - Commencing joint state, federal and Department of Defense (DoD) Keys Response Working Group to examine FL Keys response options, including air bridge and U.S. Navy amphibious resources.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

- **CBP Impacted Personnel Accountability:**
 - **USVI & Puerto Rico: 754 out of 796 accounted**
 - **St. John/St. Thomas: 34 out of 72 accounted**
- **CBP Impacted Personnel Evacuated: 123 personnel**
 - **USVI & Puerto Rico: 9 personnel**
 - **Caribbean (Bahamas): 44 personnel**
 - **CBP Florida: 70 personnel**
- **Office of Field Operations:**
 - **St. Croix: No reports of damage to personnel or their property. No damages reported to the facilities.**
 - **St. John/St. Thomas: Reports from the UH60 are that the St Thomas airport terminal and CBP facility has serious damage. Some parts of the terminal has been destroyed. Established limited contact with the St. Thomas Area Port Director through satellite communications. Assessment of facilities and personnel are ongoing.**
 - **San Juan Port/Field Office: All operations are currently suspended in the Area Port of San Juan. All facilities are running on generators. No significant impact reported to CBP facilities as of the time of this report.**
 - **No reported damage to CBP assets at Mayaguez, Fajardo, or Ponce, PR**
 - **Limited impact to operations in Bahamas, Jamaica, Dominican Republic**
 - **CBP Florida: All Ports have activated hurricane plans, and essential recovery personnel and equipment has been prepared and staged.**
 - **Atlanta Field Office:**
 - **Port of Savannah: intends to suspend Trade operations on Friday, 8 Sep due to potential impacts of Hurricane Irma. Vessel and aircraft clearance will cease Friday, 8 Sep at 2359.**
 - **Port of Brunswick: will cease all Operations at 1700 ET on Friday, 8 Sep**
 - **Field Office Academy suspending training until 18 Sep**
- **Office of Border Patrol Ramey Sector: Currently operating under generator power**
- **Air Marine Operations:**

- Caribbean Air and Marine Branch is currently in St. Thomas conducting an initial evaluation.
- Caribbean Air & Marine Operations Center will be closed due to Hurricane Warning Issued to Puerto Rico and USVI until further notice.
- A total of three P-3 deployments to Panama scheduled for the next two weeks have been canceled.
- Miami Air and Marine Branch completed repositioning 2 X AS350, 2 X DHC-8, and 1 X UH-60 to New Orleans.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- HSI Rapid Response Team (RRT) Deployment Posture
 - ESF-13 Quick Response Teams (QRTs) have not been established.
 - HSI San Juan RRT:
 - St Thomas Resident Agent in Charge is safe, and welfare checks are in progress in coop Confirmed satisfactory health and welfare of the father of one NCR RRT member.
 - San Juan has a 34 member RRT that includes a Medic. Today the team will conduct ICE Equities Mission Assignment for PR, St. Croix, and St Thomas.
 - ESF13 was provided with the San Juan RRT capabilities and they expressed an interested in flagging them as a QRT for use with Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) missions. If requested, this will have to be adjudicated by HSI Domestic Operations and the San Juan SAC.
- Emergency Management Unit / Medical Countermeasures (MCM)
 - ICE MCM located in FOD Miami – Krome Detention Center remains in place. There is a generator on standby if electricity is lost.
 - ICE MCM located in SAC Tampa remains in place. If power is lost, a team will be designated to enter the facility when it is safe to do so, and move the MCM via a government vehicle to SAC Atlanta.
- Office of Acquisition Management
 - Micro-purchase threshold increase in response to Hurricane Irma was released yesterday afternoon. Seventeen (17) purchase cardholder's thresholds have been increased to \$20,000. All cardholders are with HSI (Miami, Tampa, Emergency Management Unit DC).
- HSI Offices:
 - HSI Miami
 - Mandatory evacuations for Florida Keys, Zones A and B in Miami Dade County, and Zone A in Broward County
 - Utilizing ENS to ascertain the number of employees that live in the affected areas as well as their evacuation location. 45 employees have reported living in a mandatory evacuation zone.
 - Approximately 40 employees have already left the AOR to seek shelter.
 - Offices along the AOR have been closed until further notice.
 - All of our employees (17) have left the Florida Keys.

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- Received 5 out of 6 SAT phones from HSI Houston.
- HSI Tampa
 - **Evacuation reporting protocols have been established and sent to the entire AOR. Anyone who evacuates will adhere to immediate reporting requirements via the chain of command**
 - **HSI offices throughout the AOR will be closed 8 Sep.**
 - **All employees were accounted for 7 Sep and remain safe.**
 - **Satellite phones were requested for the Special Agent in Charge office and outlying offices. All requested phones were sent FedEx today and will arrive 8 Sep.**
 - **HSI Savannah and HSI Charleston are currently preparing offices and assets to minimize damage from Hurricane IRMA.**
- HSI Atlanta
 - **Mandatory evacuation has been ordered for all areas east of I-95, all of Chatham County, where Savannah is located, and some areas west of I-95 that could be impacted by the potential storm surge. Mandatory evacuation begins at 0800 hours Saturday, 9 Sep.**
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 - ENS was tested earlier this week and will be retested this afternoon.
- Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)
 - Miami
 - Personnel
 - **The Miami Field Office has successfully accounted for all ERO employees assigned to the San Juan, PR, Aguadilla PR, and St. Thomas, USVI resident offices.**
 - **The Miami field office currently has a total of 12 ERO employees that have evacuated their residences, due to orders of mandatory evacuation.**
 - Detainees
 - **Detainees from Florida were evacuated**
 - Facilities:
 - Initial site survey in San Juan revealed no noticeable damage.
 - Initial site survey at Aguadilla revealed only minor damage to a perimeter fence.
- Office of Professional Responsibility
 - All OPR employees and their families are safe and accounted for.
 - OPR offices in Puerto Rico and Florida remain closed.
- Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
 - San Juan OCC:
 - All employees are accounted for.

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- Based on road conditions, debris, and overall unsafe condition, the office will remain closed through 11 Sep.
- Miami OCC:
 - The offices remain closed through 11 Sep. The operating status will be re-evaluated once Hurricane IRMA makes landfall.
 - Numerous employees are in mandatory evacuation zones and are evacuating.
- Orlando OCC:
 - The offices will close on 7 Sep and remain closed through 11 Sep.
- Orlando OCC-Glynco, GA:
 - The offices will close on 7 Sep and remain closed through 15 Sep.
- Office of the Chief Information Officer
 - All personnel (39) accounted for in Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.
- Office of Training and Tactical Programs
 - FLETC – Glynco; ICE RRTs are stationed at the Glynco facility.
- **Management & Administration**
 - **At this time, all M&A employees in the impacted areas (Puerto Rico, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) are accounted for, reported safe and in communication with their program.**
- **Office of Human Capital**
 - **All 4 OHC employees in the Florida and South Carolina areas are currently accounted for and have not been evacuated.**

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

- **Property Damage:**
 - **TSA Property: TBD**
 - **Two TSA employees on St Thomas report they lost their homes**
- Operational Status:
 - San Juan (SJU): airport is open; **1 Operational checkpoint running on an airport generator, Administrative Offices have no power; 1 flight departed at 1331 hours, 8 more flights scheduled to depart this evening; sufficient staffing; No further screening support requested**
 - Saint Thomas (STT): **Runway has heavy debris and FEMA is attempting to clear; Airport generator is back operational for now; Heavy damage to the terminal and surrounding infrastructure; Tower is in good shape with the exception of some water intrusion to the equipment room; No estimation as to how long it will take to open the tower/airport; SJU FSD will visit tomorrow, 8 Sep**
 - St. Croix (STX): open for emergency flights; 100 percent accountability of personnel.
 - Rafael Hernandez (BQN): open with reduced capacity; 100 percent accountability of personnel.
 - Mercedita (PSE): **Open with normal operations**; 100 percent accountability of personnel

- Miami (MIA): Continuing to monitor storm. Mandatory evacuations **commenced** Thursday afternoon. Storm rider team will report to work on Friday evening and remain in the airport for the duration of the storm. **Experiencing heavy passenger loads and increased wait times**
- Fort Lauderdale (FLL): Storm rider team in place. In the process of determining how the mandatory evacuation will affect staffing.
- Palm Beach (PBI): Storm rider team in place. Mandatory evacuation will decrease staffing by 20 percent.
- Key West (EYW): Currently no storm rider team; **operations ceased with last departure at 1750 ET on 7 Sep.**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

- OCONUS Locations Field Operations (FOD):
 - Puerto Rico Field Office – Post Storm 22 (-2) additionally one MGNT employee on leave in PR; no contact since post storm.
 - Virgin Islands – Post Storm one (-13) however communication is extremely limited.
- CONUS Locations – Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations (RAIO).
 - ZMI – Miami Asylum – 117 (13 Detailers & 2 contractors). Asylum office closed Thursday and Friday. Employees in mandatory evacuation zones.
- San Juan and USVI offices remain closed until post storm period. Florida offices preparing for the storm as per the Hurricane OPLAN. Direct 9 offices (Southern Florida) are closed through the weekend.
- FLETC Charleston is closing and all USCIS Basic students will return to their home duty stations by 8 Sep or bused to Charlotte, NC. Post Hurricane a return date will be set.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

- Sector San Juan conducting post storm assessment and reconstitution plans.
- District 5 (D5), all units are at Port Condition Normal.
- Hurricane Condition I set for USCG Sector San Juan & USCG Air station Borinquen. Hurricane Condition II set for Key West **and Miami**
- Port Condition ZULU set for all Puerto Rico (PR) and US Virgin Islands (VI) ports, Port Condition X-RAY set for Key West **and Miami.**
- **Sector San Juan to conduct port assessments for St Thomas and St Croix on 8 Sep**
- USCG Air Station Savannah is Partially Mission Capable and USCG Air Facility Charleston non-mission capable due to Hurricane HARVEY support. USCG Station San Juan is non-mission capable.
- **District 7 COOP main body arrived in St. Louis and is scheduled to begin operations at 0600 ET on 8 Sep.**
- **Evaluating potential D5 COOP; modified Incident Management Team activating at 0800 ET, 8 Sep with full activation 0600 ET 11 Sep**

- **Georgia units affected by evacuation orders in Savannah, Tybee Island, and Kings Bay**
- **Cutter Operations**
 - **Seven Sector San Juan Cutters moored at Curacao**
 - **Florida-based Cutters to complete sortie 8 Sep**
 - **SC based Cutters moving north**
 - **Sector San Juan establishing multi-agency coordination center for post-storm SAR in Caribbean.**

National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD)

- **NCCIC:**
 - **FEMA Mission assignments for three personnel to the Region IV RRCC and one person to the Region II RRCC**
 - Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) Pensacola, FL facility is working with Navy personnel in Corry Station to maintain situational awareness and develop courses of action should the area be impacted.
 - NCCIC and NSD leadership in Pensacola are also working with the NCR counterparts to develop courses of action should they need to move program operations out of Florida temporarily.
 - CS&C is examining internal processes to ensure they are able to answer the following questions: 1) How each division will ensure that each employee's location is accounted for before, during, and after the storm, including those that plan to work from alternate locations. 2) An updated list of personnel on the Surge Capacity Force (SCF), including the number of employees that have accepted deployments and the number still waiting for a deployment request. 3) Any relocation of operations to an alternative site.
- **Infrastructure Protection (IP) / Protective Security Coordination Division**
 - **Region IV Staff teams have been selected and have been briefed on their duties and their work hours. Teams were activated on 7 Sep.**
- **Federal Protective Service (FPS)**
 - **FPS continues making plans and preparations for deployment relief efforts**
 - **FPS has prepositioned TACCOM equipment in Orlando, FL in preparation for Hurricane IRMA**
 - **FPS is moving communications personnel to Florida for IRMA**
 - **FPS continues to develop contingency plans for Puerto Rico and FPS Region 4**
- **Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM)**
 - Hurricane IRMA's path could impact either DHS Data Center, which would degrade departmental biometric matching capability during an outage. OBIM will continue to monitor the storm and transfer IDENT operations to the safest Data Center, if necessary. The loss of one Data Center would create a long term effect on some DHS and partner agency operations, with remaining matching capacity devoted to border entry and law enforcement activities during the day; catching up on national security, immigration, visa, and credentialing queries overnight. Biometric Support

Center West in San Diego is scheduled to perform all manual verifications for the weekend and can extend that coverage if Biometric Center East (Rosslyn, VA) becomes unavailable. National Capital Region staff will be advised to prepare for situational telework if warranted.

Domestic Nuclear Detection Office

- DNDO has no personnel in the affected region.
- All Mobile Detection Deployment Units are available to support operations as required.
- DNDO is standing by to support any CBP Radiation Portal Monitor system replacement or repair needs, as required.

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)

- **FLETC Glyncro, GA will be relocating all students to their Douglas, GA evacuation site at South Georgia Community College by 9 Sep.**
- **FLETC Charleston, SC will be relocating all students to their evacuation site at Fort Gordon, GA Army Base by 9 Sep.**